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X-FACTOR

ISSUE 27



RATED T+



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MESSIAH COMPLEX

chapter eleven

DAVID

MARVEL

EATON

After M-Day, mutantkind neared extinction. Once hailed as humanity's replacement, it appeared mutants, now reduced to a few hundred, would fade into oblivion. But a new mutant baby has arrived, the first since M-Day, and with it, hope for mutantkind.

Previously in MESSIAH COMPLEX...

On the day of its birth, the new mutant baby was kidnapped by rogue X-Man Cable. Cable fended off attacks from the Marauders, henchmen of the evil geneticist Mr. Sinister, and X-Force, the X-Men's secretive black ops squad, in search of a time machine component.

After reaching the lab of the mutant inventor Forge, he discovered Forge waylaid by the X-Man Bishop, who then attempted to kill the baby. But the Marauders suddenly arrived, led by former X-Man Gambit. They defeated Bishop and escaped with the child and now, X-Force and Bishop have left in pursuit.

Meanwhile, Layla Miller and a duplicate of Jamie Madrox, the Multiple Man, are on the hunt to unlock the secrets of the mutant baby's past. To that end, they've traveled to a dystopian future rife with mutant persecution, where they've been imprisoned and branded.

Fortunately they may have found the answers they've been looking for in the form of a young
Lucas Bishop.

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**SHEEPSHEAD BAY, BROOKLYN.
EIGHTY YEARS FROM NOW...**



EXCUSE ME.



YOU'RE...
YOU'RE
BISHOP?

LUCAS
BISHOP?

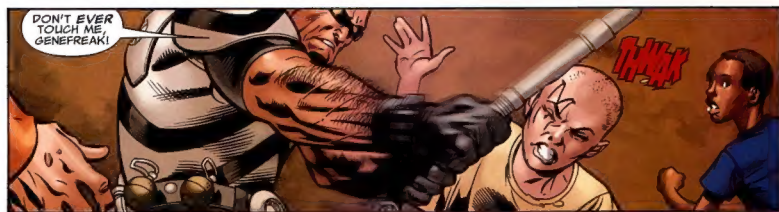
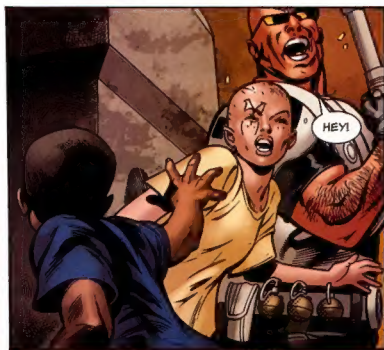


WHO
WANTS TO
KNOW?

MY NAME'S
LAYLA. THIS
IS JAMIE.
CAN
WE TALK TO
YOU?



TALK TO
YOURSELVES.



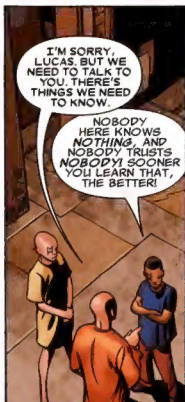


LUCAS!
WAIT.
PLEASE.



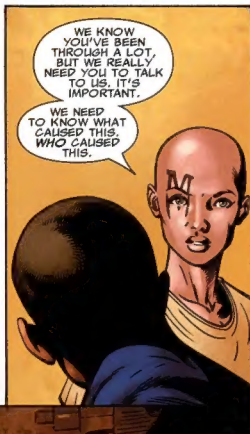
WHAT--
DOES THAT "M"
ON YOUR FACE STAND
FOR "MORON"?

YOU TRYIN'
TO GET ME BEATEN?
YOU DON'T JUST TALK
OUT IN THE OPEN
IN FRONT OF GUARDS.



I'M SORRY,
LUCAS, BUT WE
NEED TO TALK TO
YOU. THERE'S
THINGS WE NEED
TO KNOW.

NOBODY
HERE KNOWS
NOTHING, AND
NOBODY TRUSTS
NOBODY! SOONER
YOU LEARN THAT,
THE BETTER!



WE KNOW
YOU'VE BEEN
THROUGH A LOT,
BUT WE REALLY
NEED YOU TO TALK
TO US. IT'S
IMPORTANT.

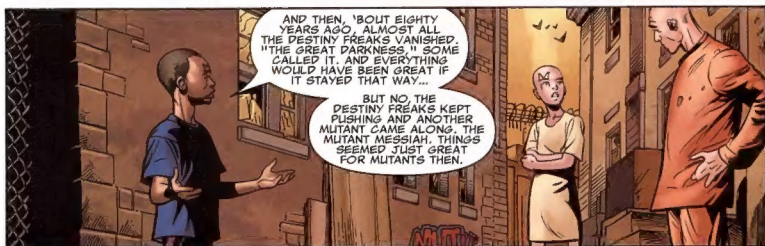
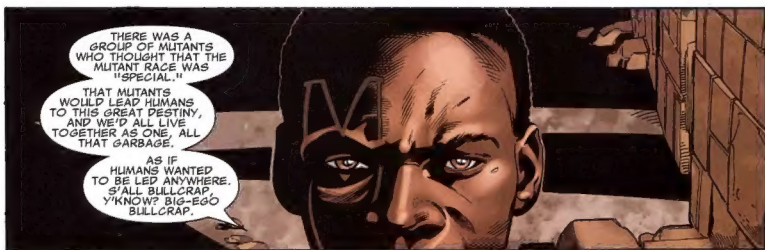
WE NEED
TO KNOW WHAT
CAUSED THIS.
WHO CAUSED
THIS.



WAIT
A SECOND. ARE
YOU TWO DESTINY
FREAKS?



ARE WE
WHAT?







I'M SORRY,
JAMIE...



BUT THIS
IS THE ONLY
WAY.

TRUST ME. I'M
LAYLA... MADROX.
I KNOW ST--



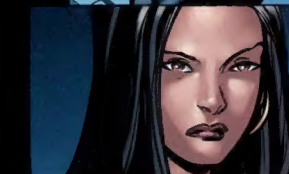


**DALLAS, TEXAS.
FORGE'S AERIE.
NOW.**

THIS WHOLE
THING HAS BLOWN
UP IN OUR FACES,
SCOTT.



WE'VE GOT
TO BE MISSING
SOMETHING.



SOMETHING'S
WRONG. SOMETHING
DOESN'T GEL.

CABLE, THE
PURIFIERS, THE
SENTINELS,
SINISTER, THE
MARAUDERS.



SOMETHING'S
WRONG.



SCOTT...



THE GIRLS
HAVE FOUND
THEM. THEY'VE
FOUND--

GAMBIT.
HE WAS THE
EASIEST.

**THE XAVIER
INSTITUTE.
WESTCHESTER.**

HIS MIND
CRIES OUT
TO US. HE'S SO
LOST... SO
LOST...

PITY HE
DOESN'T
KNOW IT.

YOUR EMPATHY
IS APPRECIATED GIRLS...
BUT THEIR DESTINATION
WOULD BE APPRECIATED
EVEN MORE...

MUIR
ISLAND.

OR AT
LEAST WHAT'S
LEFT OF IT.

MUIR ISLAND,
LUCAS. YOU'VE
GOT YOUR
HEADING.

GET GOING.
WE'LL BE RIGHT
BEHIND YOU.

COPY THAT,
CYCLOPS. WE'RE
ON OUR WAY.

SCOTLAND.
LUCKY YOU, RAHNE.
YOU GET A FREE
TRIP HOME.

AYE. I COULD HAVE
WISHED FOR BETTER
CIRCUMSTANCES FOR
A HOMECOMING,
THOUGH.

WHAT'RE YOU,
KIDDING?

HEADING FOR
A MAJOR SCRAP
TO RESCUE A BABY
AND SAVE MUTANT-
KIND?

KID,
CIRCUMSTANCES
DON'T GET ANY
BETTER.

FWOOOSH



AH, JAMIE...
LOOK WHAT THIS HAS
COME TO. YOU
UNCONSCIOUS...LAYLA
MISSING...

ALL FOR
WHAT? A VAGUE
CHANCE THAT MAYBE
YOU'LL TURN UP
SOMETHING
USEFUL?

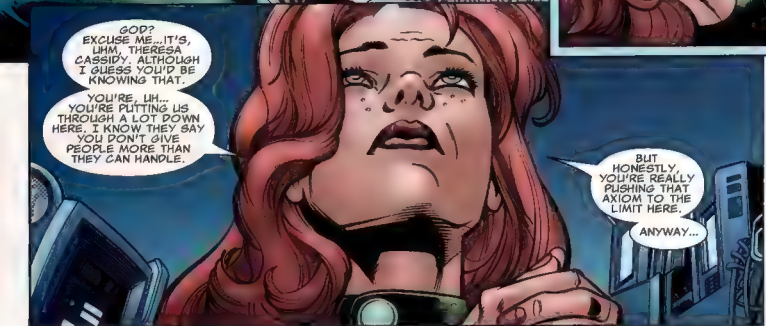
LORD, THE
WHOLE WORLD'S
GONE MAD.



CALIBAN DEAD...
AND THAT POOR DEVIL,
PEEPERS, RIPPED APART
BY WHO-KNOWS-
WHAT.

IS THIS SENSE OF...
OF HOPELESSNESS
PERVADING EVERYTHING...
IS THIS WHAT THE END
TIMES ARE LIKE?

IT'S
JUST NOT
FAIR.



GOD?
EXCUSE ME...IT'S,
UHM, THERESA
CASSIDY. ALTHOUGH
I GUESS YOU'D BE
KNOWING THAT.

YOU'RE, UH...
YOU'RE PUTTING US
THROUGH A LOT DOWN
HERE. I KNOW THEY SAY
YOU DON'T GIVE
PEOPLE MORE THAN
THEY CAN HANDLE.

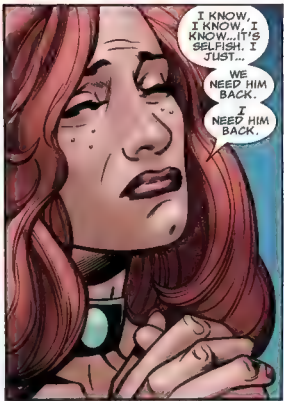
BUT
HONESTLY,
YOU'RE REALLY
PUSHING THAT
AXIOM TO THE
LIMIT HERE.

ANYWAY...



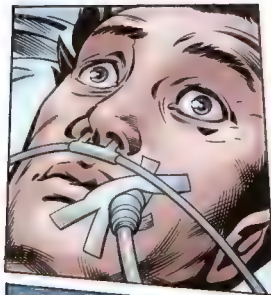
WITH EVERYTHING
THAT'S GOING ON...
WE COULD, Y'KNOW...
USE ONE IN THE
"WIN" COLUMN.

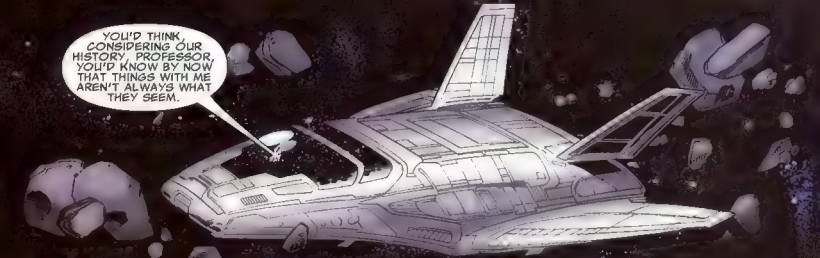
SO ON THAT
BASIS, I'D REALLY
APPRECIATE HAVING
JAMIE SNAP OUT OF
THIS. CALL IT...I DON'T
KNOW...A GOOD
FAITH GESTURE?




I KNOW,
I KNOW, I
KNOW...IT'S
SELFISH. I
JUST...

WE
NEED HIM
BACK.
I
NEED HIM
BACK.





YOU'D THINK, CONSIDERING OUR HISTORY, PROFESSOR, YOU'D KNOW BY NOW THAT THINGS WITH ME AREN'T ALWAYS WHAT THEY SEEM.



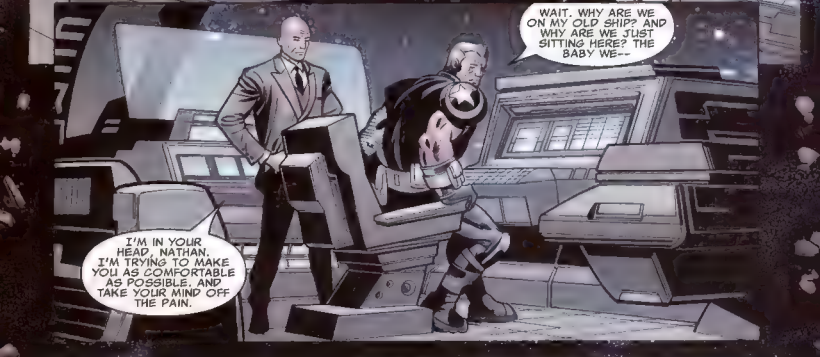
REMEMBER WHEN EVERYONE THOUGHT I TRIED TO KILL YOU?

WHICH TIME?

THE FIRST TIME, WHEN STRYFE WAS...

...IMPERSONATING YOU, YES, I REMEMBER.

GOOD TIMES, HUM.

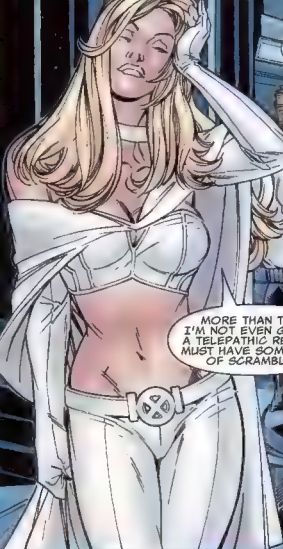


WAIT. WHY ARE WE ON MY OLD SHIP? AND WHY ARE WE JUST SITTING HERE? THE BABY WE--

I'M IN YOUR HEAD, NATHAN. I'M TRYING TO MAKE YOU AS COMFORTABLE AS POSSIBLE, AND TAKE YOUR MIND OFF THE PAIN.



PAIN?



NO DICE.
BISHOP'S GONE
RADIO SILENT.

MORE THAN THAT.
I'M NOT EVEN GETTING
A TELEPATHIC READ.
HE MUST HAVE SOME SORT
OF SCRAMBLER.

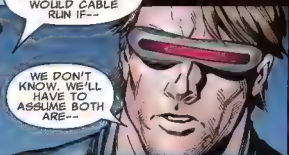
THE TIMING
OF THE SENTINEL ATTACK
WAS VERY CONVENIENT.
RIGHT AFTER WE LEARNED
OF CABLE, BISHOP WAS
IN THE ROOM.

HE HAD
TIES WITH THE
O.N.E.

SO HE
WOULD HAVE
HAD ACCESS TO
THE SENTINELS.

BUT COULD
HE DO IT? HE'S
AN X-MAN, AND WHY
WOULD CABLE
RUN IF--

WE DON'T
KNOW. WE'LL
HAVE TO
ASSUME BOTH
ARE--



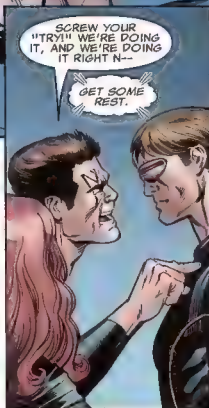
CABLE, BISHOP
AND THE REST OF IT
CAN ALL GO TO HELL.
WE NEED TO GO BACK
AND GET LAYLA.

WE'LL TRY,
MADROX, BUT
RIGHT NOW...

TRY?

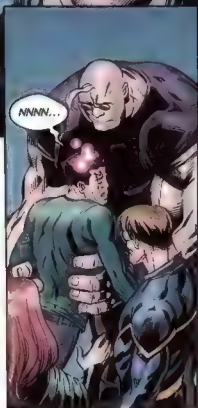
JAMIE...

TRY?!?



SCREW YOUR
"TRY!" WE'RE DOING
IT, AND WE'RE DOING
IT RIGHT N--

GET SOME
REST.



NNNN...

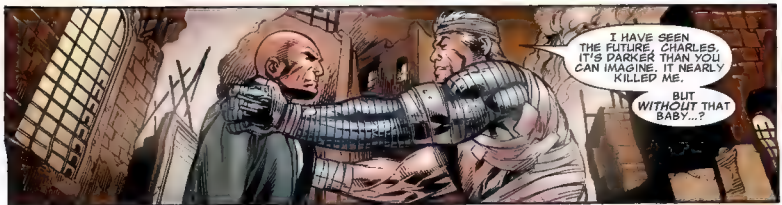


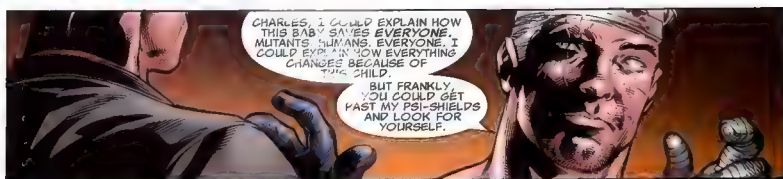
THANK YOU,
EMMA.

NO
PROBLEM,
LOVE.

SADDLE
UP, PEOPLE.
WE'VE GOT TO
RESCUE A
BABY.







WAAAAA

SHHHH, S'OKAY,
LITTLE DARLING, IT'LL
ALL BE OVER SOON.
MEANTIME...

ENJOY
YOUR MOMENT OF
RECOGNITION.

SEE HOW
EVERYONE HAS
TURNED OUT TO
WELCOME
YOU?

YOU'RE A VERY
IMPORTANT PERSON.
PRACTICALLY
ROYALTY.





WELL, WELL.
SO THIS IS THE
INDIVIDUAL WHO HAS
BEEN GIVING US SO
MANY PROBLEMS.

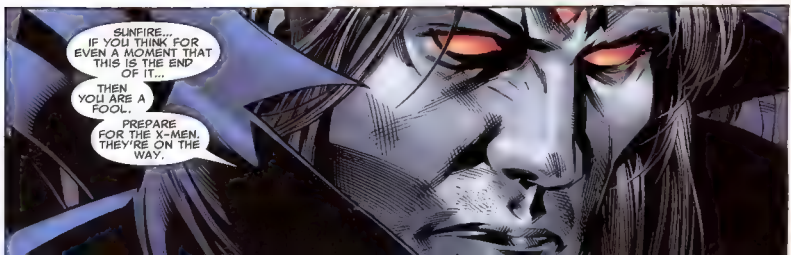
A PLEASURE
TO MEET YOU.



COME,
WE HAVE MUCH
TO DO.

THE REST OF
YOU...GO ABOUT
YOUR BUSINESS.

WHAT
BUSINESS? WE'VE
DONE WHAT YOU
NEEDED US TO
DO...



SUNFIRE...
IF YOU THINK FOR
EVEN A MOMENT THAT
THIS IS THE END
OF IT...

THEN
YOU ARE A
FOOL.

PREPARE
FOR THE X-MEN.
THEY'RE ON THE
WAY.










YOU SURE THEY COULDN'T HAVE TRACKED US LANDING HERE ON MUIR ISLAND?

POSITIVE, MY SHIP'S STEALTH CAPACITY CAN'T BE PIERCED BY ANY TECHNOLOGY OF THIS TIME.

"YES" WOULD HAVE SUFFICED.



OKAY, PEOPLE. STAY TIGHT AND FROSTY. TWO BY TWO FORMATION.



I'M NOT PICKING UP ANY LIFE READINGS IN THE AREA.


NONE?

MAYBE THEY CLEARED OUT



MAYBE. OR...

OR WHAT?



WELL...PROBLEM IS THAT THE MARAUDERS HAVE PEOPLE WHO GET INTO YOUR HEAD...LIKE LADY MASTERMIND, FOR INSTANCE.

MAKE THE AREA SEEM DESERTED... MAKE YOU THINK YOUR GIZMO DETECTS NOBODY WHEN IT'S SCREAMING ALARMS...

YEAH. YOU'RE SAYING...?



SNIKT

TALINK



YOU'D ALMOST
THINK THIS
WAS A TRAP.

YOU KNOW
WHAT TO DO,
X-FORCE.

TO BE CONTINUED
IN NEW X-MEN #46!

X-MEN: MESSIAH COMPLEX

CHAPTER 12

NEW X-MEN

ISSUE 46



THREE EDITION

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MESSIAH COMPLEX

chapter twelve

KYLE/YOST **MARVEL** RAMOS

NEXT WEEK:

FINAL SHOWDOWN.

PREDATOR X FEASTS.

SINISTER'S FATE REVEALED.



VARIANT COVER